

April 2019

Latham and staff meet with govt. officials, others

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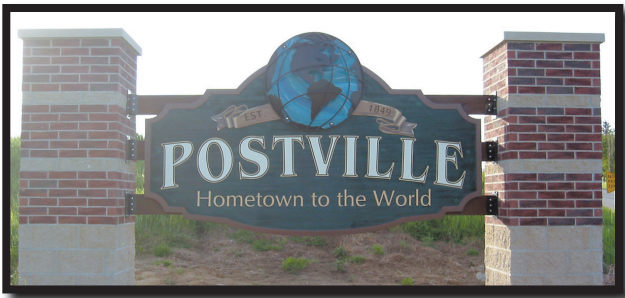


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What's happening in and around Postville.....

FreedomClub event is cancelled

The FreedomClub Social Event scheduled for June 19 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Big Four Fair is this weekend

The Annual Big Four Fair is being held this weekend at the fairgrounds on the northeast edge of Postville. This fair preshow is an excellent opportunity for 4-H and FFA youth to show their cattle, and other projects prior to the county fairs. See pages 8 and 9 of today's paper for the complete fair schedule. All area residents are urged to come out and support our young people during the Big Four Fair.

Nominations sought for Pirate Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being sought for the Postville Pirate Athletic Hall of Fame. The committee is looking for individuals and teams who received All-State, All-Conference or All-District honors, are record holders or were state champions. Those making nominations need to provide as much information about the nominees as possible. Anyone having questions or wishing to make nominations for the Hall of Fame should contact any member of the committee or write to Pirate Hall of Fame, Box 717, Postville. All nominations for the coming year are due by August 6, 2008. The induction ceremony will be held in the fall during a formal banquet.



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A Service of Remembrance was held June 12 in honor of those taken during the ICE Raid here on May 12. The service showed community support for those who are suffering. Father Paul Ouderkirk and Pastor Steve Brackett read scripture during the service and candles were lit for all those who were taken. Each attendee was given a red ribbon to show the community's solidarity following the raid. See page two.

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Postville Herald-Leader

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The top photo shows the exterior of the new Allamakee-Clayton Rural Electric Cooperative Building which is located north of Postville on Highway 51 that opened earlier this year. The bottom photo is of the former REC building on West Greene Street in downtown Postville when it was new several decades ago.



Through the Years... REC celebrates seventieth anniversary, new facility June 25 with open house

by Stephanie Gelo
Much has changed since the winter of 1938 when a group of Northeast Iowa farmers organized Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ACEC) for the purpose of providing electric service to rural families in Allamakee, Clayton, the north one-half of Fayette and parts of the adjoining counties. At that time, investor-owned companies did not believe that they could profitably extend power lines into rural areas to serve farms

which they believed would only use electricity to light a couple of light bulbs. Farm families, however, knew better. Those farmers elected a board of directors which in turn hired the Cooperative's first manager, Kermit James. They then set about obtaining a loan from a newly formed government agency, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The first substation and lines were built from a loan of \$208,000 received from the REA. After hiring

two crew members, Al Winter and Howard Walker, the Postville substation, serving 508 families along 218 miles of line, was energized January 20, 1940. The first farm to be hooked up was that of the late Fred Panncke southeast of Postville. From that meager beginning, the Cooperative has continually expanded to now provide electric service to 9,548 members via 16 substations and 2,463 miles of line. ACEC will be celebrating the Grand Opening of its new facility and 70th Anniversary next Wednesday, June 25.

The need to build one facility that housed all aspects of ACEC's operation came when the previous location became inefficient and incapable of accommodating the growth rate of the Cooperative. At the previous location, employees often had to travel to five different locations all over Postville before answering a service call. The

inefficiencies associated with fuel costs, time, and communications were solved by the layout of the new facility. Furthermore, the old ACEC location was not large enough to house the Cooperative's service vehicles, forcing ACEC to leave some vehicles outside. The security of the facilities also suffered as a result of the dated building and size.

Other aspects that sparked the initiative to build include the new services provided by ACEC. The Cooperative added services such as First-Call emergency monitoring, WildBlue satellite Internet, and DIRECTV. These services have been integrated into the Cooperative over the past sixteen years and have accounted for an additional 4,000 customers. ACEC ex-

REC Through the Years
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Diversity Council update on aftermath of raid; food pantry drained

The Postville Diversity Council is offering an update to the Postville community and the surrounding areas on the aftermath of the raid at Agriprocessors, Inc. that left many Postville residents without employment or income. Several families have seen their primary wage-earner incarcerated. There is an ongoing need for support of the immigrant community. The immediate response of people in the entire area and especially in Postville was incredible as everyone came together to assist those in need. The team at St Bridget's Catholic Church in Postville has worked tirelessly to bring organization to the initial confusion.

However, it has now been a month since the raid and there are many families who still need help. If you can provide transportation or help answer the phones or interpret, please use this email:

postville.volunteers@gmail.com to volunteer.

Remember also that there is a continuing need for contributions and these can be sent to Sister Mary McCauley, Hispanic Ministry, St Bridget's Church, PO Box 379, Postville.

There will be a community meal for the Latinos on Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 pm at St Bridget's church. The purpose of the meal is to provide an opportunity for those families affected by the raid to come together in solidarity. The food for this meal will be provided by members of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church in rural Decorah. The plans at this time are to have a weekly meal provided by area churches.

The food pantry has been drained of supplies and the main supplier in Waterloo has been closed due to flooding. The list of needs is as follows:

diapers - sizes 4, 5, & 6; formula; baby cereal; breakfast cereal; canned fruits especially peaches, pears, and mixed fruit; canned vegetables (especially pinto beans, corn, and peas); cooking oil; tortillas; dry pinto beans and other dry beans; packages of

spaghetti, noodles and ramen noodles; jars/cans of spaghetti sauce; instant potatoes; rice; powdered milk; fruit juice concentrate (in cans, NOT frozen); ready to eat pudding packs; feminine protection products; powdered laundry detergent; plastic grocery bags for distributing food

Community Foundation assists Postville families and children

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque donors have sent \$1500 to Postville for the Hispanic Relief Fund to assist families and children impacted by the immigration raid in the Allamakee County community. Sister Mary McCauley, St. Bridget's Pastoral Administrator, recently sat down with Community Foundation Communications Director M.J. Smith to discuss the current relief effort.

In temporary courtrooms

an hour away, 270 illegal immigrants, who McCauley described as men trying to feed their children, were sentenced to prison for working at Agriprocessors, the local meatpacking plant, with false documents.

This humanitarian crisis seems to have been placed in McCauley's lap, even as she

Community Foundation
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Iowa Congressman Tom Latham contemplates a question during his stop in Postville last Friday. Latham addressed issues such as the flood crisis and the ICE immigration raid in Postville which occurred at Agriprocessors on May 12.

Iowa Representative Tom Latham and Lois Clark from his staff made a stop in Postville last Friday as part of the congressman's "Disaster Tour." Latham, who arrived in Postville at approximately 2:15 p.m. visited with members of the Postville City Council and other Allamakee County officials as well County residents who had concerns.

Postville Mayor Robert O. Penrod addressed the issue of Postville's impending need for a new wastewater treatment facility and the strain on the City's economy following the I.C.E. raid at Agriprocessors on May 12. Council persons Jeff Reinhardt and Ginger Medberry reiterated the fact that many residents have experienced sewer back-up due, in part, to the outdated lines. It was noted that the facility is not in compliance with the law and much funding will be needed in order to complete the project.

When asked, Mayor Penrod told the Congressman that the plant (Agriprocessors, Inc.) is running on a limited basis and they are recruiting new help.

Rachelle Howe, of Allamakee County Economic Development, told Mr. Latham that our county is definitely in need of an increased labor force. This labor shortage, she added, will become more and more evident as "baby boomers" retire at alarming rates. She said, "We need to find ways to make the process of becoming legal easier for those immigrants who wish to work here."

Latham added, "We need to find a way for people to come here legally. There are not enough Visas and Green Cards available. The immigration system is broken."

Postville's Elementary Middle School Principal Chad Wahls told Mr. Latham about the impact the raid could have on the school district. He said it could affect as many as 18 teachers and hundreds of students. The people that are here, he said, now have no source of income and cannot afford housing. He said, "We need to do something so that it is easier for these

Representative Tom Latham stops in Postville during Disaster Tour
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Area

www.postvillenewspaper.com

Supervisors updated on flood damage to county roads at Monday's session

BY BOB BEACH
The Standard

The Allamakee County Board of Supervisors met in a brief regular meeting Monday, June 16. Allamakee Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Director Barb Winters presented the Board with a memorandum of understanding for a \$10,000 grant from the State for substance abuse prevention, which the Board signed.

Winters also reported that ASAP Youth Coordinator Dawn Gomez has been offered a position by Helping Services. The Board asked Winters to investigate whether or not Gomez could be persuaded to reject that offer in favor of keeping her position with the County. Winters returned to the meeting later to report that Gomez would be happy to stay and that an accord had been reached with respect to a salary increase that fits ASAP's budget.

The Board also met with County Engineer Brian Ridenour, who updated the Board on the progress of repairs to flood-damaged roads in Allamakee County. Ridenour summed the process up by

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saying, "We're gaining on it," and expressed that he feels damages to the Allamakee County road system will total over \$1 million.

Ridenour explained that the worst area to address will be Iverson Bridge Road, but hoped that Lycurgus Road would be open by the end of this week. He did say that access to all permanent residences for those who live in the county has been restored.

The Board approved transfers of \$24,003.28 from the General Basic Fund and \$94,910.43 from the Rural Services Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund. Ridenour also reported that the union has rejected the County's contract offer, so the next

stage of contract negotiations will be a binding arbitration.

In other business, Heather Homewood from the Veterans Affairs Office and Linda Kruse from the Allamakee County Relief Office reported that damages to the roof of their office caused by the fire at Wild Willy's late last year are still in need of repair. The Board instructed Head Custodian Mike Gallagher to look into the necessary repairs and to keep track of the expenses for a later insurance claim.

The Board also signed a contract with Solutions and approved County library contracts for fiscal year 2009 with Harpers Ferry, Lansing, New Albin, Postville, Waterville and Waukon.

Classic Tractors plans Spring ride is this weekend

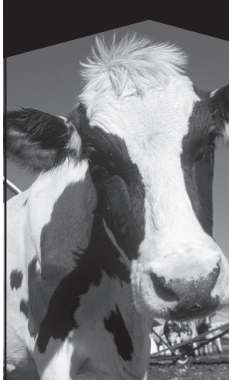
The fourth annual Spring Ride sponsored by Classic Tractors of NE IA Inc., Clermont, is set for Saturday, June 21. The 52-mile scenic ride goes thru Allamakee County and the Yellow River Forest. The tractorcade leaves from Rossville, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and departure at 9 a.m. This is a very hilly and scenic route so sure your brakes are in good order.

The ride then travels to Waterville for the first leg, before proceeding to Harpers Ferry, through the Yel-

low River Forest, and then returns through Waterville back to Rossville.

Riders are asked to bring your own lunch and beverages. If you don't want to drive the route, the club has two passenger shuttles ready for riders. Parking is available at the County Garage in Rossville.

Classic Tractors is a non-profit organization with proceeds going to community preservation projects. For reservations and info call Sylvan Taylor at 563-423-5275.



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Cleaning house

Pictured above is a photo from about 20 years ago that was found while we were cleaning the *Postville Herald-Leader* office recently. The photo from "Funtime Preschool" picturing Travis Turner (left), classmate Kyle Verley, and teacher Diane Lepa, was among the great photo finds. In addition, over the years we have accumulated a great deal of photos that have been brought into our office as news items. We encourage readers to come and browse through our photos to pick up any photos or discover forgotten photos.

Latham visit

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

people to become legal. There needs to be an easier way for them to get "Green Cards." I would like to see legislation introduced that would support the "Dream Act."

Dawn Gomez, who has also worked with the immigrant population said, "We are setting a double standard. We are sending children who were born in America to a country they have never known and where many don't speak the language. It just isn't right."

Flood Concerns

Chris Dahlstrom, of Emergency Management, pre-

sented a brief disaster assessment. He said a conservative estimate in the county from the recent flooding would be \$650,000 in secondary road damage. Most home in Dorchester, he added, received damage. Twelve homes were destroyed and 40 to 50 more had minor damage. He added that \$450,000 damage in non-FEMA roads was also assessed. Some people, he noted, were trapped in their flooding homes when the roads were washed out.

Latham encouraged those with damage to call the FEMA lines and to be sure to keep detailed notes and take photos of property damage.

Allamakee County Supervisor Lennie Burke, who was also present, reiterated the road damage and said

that Dahlstrom's estimate is likely very low. He noted two bridge approaches that are totally washed out and crop damage in excess of 8,000 acres.

He praised the people of Allamakee County saying the people will come together to make a difference. The people of Iowa, he added, will recover.

Burke also addressed the immigration issue. He said, "The employer and we, the people, enabled the immigrants. We need to go after those who are doing the enabling. We need to change how we are handling humanity."

State Senator Mark Ziemann, Republican from Postville, also spoke regarding the flood. He said, that farmland (9,600 acres) from the

Mississippi River to Highlandville has been wiped out. He added that much livestock has been destroyed due to the raging water. Ziemann said Iowans are ready and willing to step up and get back on their feet but they will need help. Ziemann estimated \$40,000,000 in property damage in the area he had toured.

Congressman Latham concluded by saying, "I have great admiration for all the citizens of this area. We will work to get financing for those affected by the disastrous flooding." Latham also pledged to look at ways to help the people of Postville as they recover from the May 12 raid.

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